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WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION COLLABORATING CENTRE FOR NURSING, MIDWIFERY & HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
BUILDING HEALTH LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC REGION

# Provision of technical support to the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education for the development and accreditation of nursing curriculum (Phases 1B, 1C and 2)

## In-country visit by WHO CC UTS Team - March 2019

The Vanuatu Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Vanuatu College of Nursing Education (VCNE), with support from the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), are working with a team of education experts from the WHO Collaborating Centre at the University of Technology Sydney, to develop and upgrade the national nursing curriculum for accreditation and implementation.

The Vanuatu MoH aims to strengthen nursing education to improve health outcomes to promote equitable access to affordable, quality health care through the fair distribution of facilities that are suitably resourced and equipped, as part of the Government National Sustainable Development Plan.

*WHO CC UTS team with Evelyne Emile (VCNE), Bertha Tarileo (MoH), and David Lambukly and Sam Samuel from VQA*

The team from the WHO CC UTS is working closely with staff from the VCNE as the primary provider of health care educational services in Vanuatu, along with MoH staff and other stakeholders, to provide technical

*Members of the Steering Committee representing Ministry of Health, Vila Central Hospital, VCNE and WHO CC UTS*

support and advice to facilitate the development of the Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Practice) that build on an already completed Diploma of Nursing and a new three year Bachelor of Nursing courses. Preparation of program accreditation documentation through the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority (VQA) is also a part of this work, as is faculty development for VCNE staff and eventual course implementation pending VQA course accreditation. VCNE is looking to develop more robust course pathways for nursing students to achieve Bachelor-level qualifications on graduation with improved recognition and, in turn, provide better health services to the population of Vanuatu.

Building the capacity and qualifications of the current tutors at VCNE to Bachelor (and possibly to post-graduate levels in the future), establishing a professional development plan for the continued professional development of tutors and previous diploma graduates

alike will also serve to strengthen nursing education and nursing workforce capacity.

**In-country Activities**

One of the first activities in Vanuatu for Professor Diane Brown, Professor Lin Lock and Ms Lisa Townsend from WHO CC UTS has been the delivery of the *Improving Clinical Teaching and Learning Workshop* to 22 VCNE female and male tutors and clinicians. This workshop was delivered over 2 days and is designed to begin to prepare local VCNE staff and selected clinicians to develop and deliver the three year BN program, with a focus on developing teaching and learning clinical skills and practice.

Fourteen participants from the VCNE undertook a further 3 day course focusing on classroom teaching and learning that was developed and delivered the WHO CC UTS team.

Whilst in Port Vila Di, Lin and Lisa were joined in the second week of their visit by Project Manager Ms Amanda Neill, and met with key stakeholders from MoH – including Mr Scott Monteiro (Team Leader - Vanuatu Health Resource Mechanism) and colleagues, Ms Bertha Tarileo (Principal Nursing Officer), Ms Evelyne Emile (Director, VCNE). The team was also taken on a site visit to Vila Central Hospital (VCH) by Mr Honore Maurice (Nursing Services Manager).

*Improving Teaching and Learning Workshop – group work activity*

*Participants and WHO CC UTS team members at the Improving Teaching and Learning Workshop*

A project Steering Committee Meeting was held at VCNE on 19 March to address issues that included progress and processes involved with development and preparation for accreditation for the Bachelor of Nursing (Advanced Practice) and Bachelor of Nursing courses, and project monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Amanda also undertook initial data collection for project M&E whilst in-country, and met with and interviewed a variety of key stakeholders. These included representatives from the MoH, VQA , Mr Viran Tovu from the VCNE Board, VCNE staff and students, and staff from Vila Central Hospital.

This visit is the first of a series of in-country visits planned in 2019 for provision of technical support by the WHO CC UTS Team to strengthen the quality of nursing education in Vanuatu.

It is hoped that the collaborative relationships established will continue to be strengthened and productive, to benefit the nursing profession and the people of Vanuatu.